

CLAIMS

1. A nonwoven fabric characterized in that the
nonwoven fabric is a thermoplastic synthetic fiber
nonwoven fabric having a fabric weight of 7 to 50 g/m², an
5 average yarn diameter of 7 to 40 µm, a partial heat
contact bonding ratio of 5 to 30% and a content of a
delustering agent of 0.5% by weight or less, or a
nonwoven fabric laminate the major component of which is
10 the thermoplastic synthetic fiber nonwoven fabric, and
that the nonwoven fabric has a maximum opening diameter
of 200 to 2,000 µm, and shows a transparency of 50% or
more, a powder leakage ratio of 10% by weight or less and
a hydrophilicity of less than 10 sec.

2. The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1,
15 wherein the nonwoven fabric is characterized in that the
nonwoven fabric is a thermoplastic synthetic fiber
nonwoven fabric having a fabric weight of 12 to 30 g/m²,
an average yarn diameter of 12 to 30 µm, a partial heat
contact bonding ratio of 5 to 30% and a content of a
20 delustering agent of 0.2% by weight or less, or a
nonwoven fabric laminate the major component of which is
the thermoplastic synthetic fiber nonwoven fabric, and
that the nonwoven fabric has a maximum opening diameter
of 400 to 1,650 µm, and shows a transparency of 60% or
25 more, a powder leakage ratio of 5% by weight or less and
a hydrophilicity of less than 10 sec.

3. The nonwoven fabric according to claim 1,
wherein the nonwoven fabric is a laminate of a
thermoplastic synthetic fiber nonwoven fabric having an
30 average yarn diameter of 7 to 15 µm and a thermoplastic
synthetic fiber nonwoven fabric having an average yarn
diameter of 15 to 40 µm.

4. The nonwoven fabric according to any one of
claims 1 to 3, wherein the thermoplastic synthetic fiber
35 nonwoven fabric is a spun-bonded nonwoven fabric composed
of a polyolefin filament yarn.

5. The nonwoven fabric according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the thermoplastic synthetic fiber nonwoven fabric is a spun-bonded nonwoven fabric composed of a polyester filament yarn.

5 6. The nonwoven fabric according to claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic synthetic fiber nonwoven fabric is a spun-bonded nonwoven fabric composed of an aliphatic polyester filament yarn.

10 7. The nonwoven fabric according to claim 6, wherein the aliphatic polyester filament yarn is a filament yarn of a polyester selected from a poly(D-lactic acid), a poly(L-lactic acid), a copolymer of D-lactic acid and L-lactic acid, a copolymer of D-lactic acid and a hydroxycarboxylic acid, a copolymer of L-lactic acid and a hydroxycarboxylic acid, a copolymer of D-lactic acid, L-lactic acid and a hydroxycarboxylic acid, or a blend of these polymers.

15 8. The nonwoven fabric according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein a synthetic resin or a fibrous material of 2 to 15 g/m² having a melting point lower than that of the thermoplastic synthetic fiber by 30 to 200°C is laminated to the thermoplastic synthetic fiber nonwoven fabric.

20 9. A tea bag prepared by filling a tea material, to be extracted, into a bag composed of the nonwoven fabric according to any one of claims 1 to 8, and sealing the tea material.

25 10. The tea bag according to claim 9, wherein the bag is tetrahedral-shaped.

30 11. The tea bag according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the tea material to be extracted is black tea, green tea or oolong tea.